

SUPPLEMENT.

The Mining Journal.

RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL GAZETTE:

FORMING A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF ALL PUBLIC COMPANIES.

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THE ORIGINATORS OF OUR RAILWAY SYSTEM: THE TWO JAMES'S AND THE TWO STEPHENSON'S.

Obligations met by promises only are inveterate peace-breakers. To serve in a downright matter-of-fact business way, and not be paid for it, renders every man sensitively alive to the inconvenience, and entitles him to cry out on the highways and bye-ways of the world against the injustice. Only conceive the indignation, the turbulence—in common parlance, the row—we would have in this country from one end of it to the other were the Bank to meet the demands of fundholders on dividend-day with scraps of acknowledgment, official courtesies, and so forth, instead of pounds, shillings, and pence! Where would be the consolation in Government employees, active-service men of every grade, prelates, priests, pensioners, and all the clerkdom of this mercantile land being told—"Gentlemen, we are satisfied you have done the State some service, but call again after your claims shall have been considered, an event which possibly may occur some time or other during the next quarter of a century."—Now such a state of things would not be deemed satisfactory, and the very idea of it excites a smile; yet it is a patent truth that this country is at this moment treating some who have fought the good fight in its service—or, we should have said, the direct representatives of those who have been its benefactors—in somewhat a similar manner. The consideration of claims but too frequently outlives the deserving servant; his heart sickens to deferred hope; his spirit becomes crushed by the pitiless procrastination of officialism; his strength enervates to privations, life ebbs in the very dreariness of age, and the unhappy claimant, wearied and worn, but hoping still, totters his last stage over a rude and rugged path; and it not unfrequently happens that it is only when from the brink of the grave he stretches forth his arms in all but voiceless supplication that the ghostliness of appeal starts into active sympathy those whom he had so long implored in vain. Description is not in this exaggerated.

Relief of the extreme of human necessities is, of course, commendable, but far more consonant is it with the great principle of the Christian law to act so that cases of such exigency shall not occur. We confess to a very strong doubt of the genuineness of that philanthropy which will not aid any but the lame and the blind—that seeks only for objects of hideous deformity or prostrate helplessness, and passes coldly by the respectability of poverty. Nor can we shrink from declaring that some proofs by no means creditable to us as a liberal people render our Government obnoxious to the allegation of tarrying too long in recognising claims which the most recalcitrant ingenuity cannot define as unfounded.

There is a little work, entitled "The Two James's and the Two Stephenson's," which bears very forcibly on this subject. As a matter of duty, the columns of this Journal were opened, many months since, to the discussion of its details. Upon the principle of justice between man and man, we laid the whole state of WILLIAM JAMES'S case plainly before the public. To plead in a just cause is said not to be difficult, yet that which involves justice to that eminent man, although equitable in every essential, is, nevertheless, embarrassing, and, in some respects, intricate, not that the facts upon which his representatives rely, are in the slightest degree obscure, but that they reflect too glaringly on incidents which had better be forgotten than remembered in the retrospect of GEORGE STEPHENSON'S merits. That WILLIAM JAMES was "the first great agitator and originator of the system of passenger transit on railways" is made as clear as noon-day by the evidence adduced, and that GEORGE STEPHENSON was indebted to him for that inspiration which sent his, at that time, untutored intelligence hovering over the project organised by JAMES, and upon which the evil destinies of the latter permitted it to swoop and to surge with rapacious appropriation, is equally apparent.

The primary object of WILLIAM JAMES in making a tour of inspection through several parts of the country, where tram-engines were used, was avowedly to find one "capable of being converted into a locomotive," fitted to the great purposes he had long designed of creating traction speed on railways sufficient for passenger traffic. This talisman, which was to open communication with all the wealth of the empire, he naturally took occasion to discuss with STEPHENSON, whose constructive genius a man of his penetration promptly discovered, and as readily, in warmth of appreciation, paid homage to, its tribute confidence the first impulse of a high cast, ingenious mind, of which WILLIAM JAMES was, it appears, indubitably the possessor. The result was exactly as any foreseeing man might have indicated. In the Killingworth conference JAMES lost his native secret of fame and fortune, and GEORGE STEPHENSON found it. Well; and more, he used it as a shrewd and clever man would, but he seems to have lost, in his upward course, certain sympathies for his benefactor, which would have been moral lights upon his way.

Regrets, however, are now unavailing; the past ever affords guides to the future if people will only accept them; but what we would arrive at now is the best means of evincing our estimation of the services of the late WILLIAM JAMES, who was, in our opinion, the true "FATHER OF RAILWAYS." His great competitor, GEORGE STEPHENSON adopted the pater-nity; and far be it from us to undervalue by a hair's weight the benefits his wonderful ability conferred, not only upon this country but many others; nay, to depreciate him would be injuring the reputation of JAMES, of whose claims on the British public we are unhesitatingly the advocate; for when the former was but a struggling uneducated man of genius, the latter was spending fortunes on the advancement of mining and railway interest, and indoctrinating those engineering principles whereon the commercial prosperity of the United Kingdom is mainly founded.

We have had submitted to us a letter of Mr. JAMES, written in the year 1822, and addressed to Mr. LOSH, of the firm of LOSH, BELL, and COMPANY, Newcastle, in which this paragraph occurs—"I wrote to Mr. STEPHENSON, to request his father to consider the best form and mode of engine-power and carriage for conveyance of passengers and light goods, with the utmost dispatch, between these towns" (Manchester and Liverpool). Here, again, is afforded evidence of the precedence this project had in the mind of JAMES as compared with the design of STEPHENSON, who estimated the acquirable velocity at only three to four miles on the level, and ten miles as the maximum running down an available incline.

Sufficient proofs have already been arrayed against any denial of this fact; and it would be idle to re-enumerate those numerous and various phases of industry his (Mr. JAMES) great talents promoted, and beneficially—less for himself than the community at large—so beaconed and landmarked that they, at the present day, exist as guides and safeguards to the operative classes; in fact, wherever the powers of machinery are called into action.

The Government of a country like this, so vast in its resources, so

much indebted to engineering for its dominant position, so responsive in benevolence when its sympathies are legitimately appealed to, should turn no deaf ear to the claims put forward by the surviving representatives of WILLIAM JAMES. The day is now past for procrastinating, and whatever it may appear desirable to do should be done quickly: to palter with demands for assistance, when they proceed from those who have been depressed in circumstances—all but reduced to penury through the unselfish zeal of a father, who wrought and wrought materially for his country's good, would be unworthy of our governing powers, and disapproved by the people.

Surely it is the proudest characteristic of England to serve those who have served her, and so to rule that the age of her servants shall not be embittered by the apprehension that those of its kindred it must give place to shall not be left to suffer a penalty of its devotedness.

If the voice of WILLIAM JAMES could now make itself heard, for whom would it appeal?—Every heart supplies the answer.

It may here be enquired, why has so long a time been allowed to elapse without memorialising in the proper quarter? An honest and laudable pride keeps many a worthy man mute, but years have a modifying and mellowing influence on the improvident intolerance of the spirit, and induce it to accept that staff in the evening of life it had spurned in the mid-day.

It would be an injustice to omit notice of an admirable lecture, recently delivered by our excellent correspondent, Mr. JOSEPH GOODWIN, of the Hyde and Haughton Collieries, Manchester, illustrative of Mr. JAMES'S cause. If the precepts he so ably propounds be listened to as they are likely to be, for they are addressed to a thinking community, the battle in favour of the JAMES'S will be waged to a rational and great social triumph.

We understand such a feeling of independence, under no very easy circumstances, either marred the intent of a committee of the first engineers of the period, with ROBERT STEPHENSON, M.P., C.E., at their head, the purpose being a general subscription for JAMES'S family. "In consideration of their father's public services as the original projector and surveyor of the Manchester and Liverpool Railroad, and many other of the most important railroads in this kingdom, principally at his own cost. We being of opinion that the great benefits conferred upon this country in particular, and the world at large, by his successful exertions and great pecuniary sacrifices, to the injury of his family (who are thereby deprived of all patrimony), entitle them not only to public sympathy, but also compensation, it being an acknowledged fact that to their father's labours the public are indebted for the establishment of the present railway system." So ran the text of the document sworn to before the Lord Mayor on the 24th of June, 1846.

Can Crown, Government, or people require more assuring testimony of the worth of a man, whose services they are morally bound to acknowledge by a state provision for his children?

THE LATE COLLIERY ACCIDENT AT WHITEHAVEN.

The inquest upon the bodies of the three men and a boy who were suffocated at the Whitehaven Hematite Iron Company's No. 2 Pit, Cleator Moor, on or about May 24, was formally opened on Tuesday, May 26, before Mr. W. Lamb, jun., coroner, and adjourned for a week. At the adjourned inquest, on June 2, Mr. Roberts, of Manchester (the Colliers' "attorney-general") attended on behalf of the friends of the deceased; Mr. Paitson on behalf of the proprietors of the pit in which the accident occurred; and Mr. Dunn and Mr. Dickinson watched the case by direction of the Government.

DANIEL WEIR (brother of the three men, and uncle of the boy) deposed to the finding of the bodies. The deceased left their homes to go to work on Sunday night, and were found dead on Monday morning, at half-past six. Witness went into the driftway because it was his shift; he went to commence work. The first time he went into the pit he lost his light at the stair bottom. He then turned back, and came out of the drift, to where the fall is. He got another lamp there, and a young man, named John Nutty, to go back with him. He went with him, and sent another man out for the overman, because Weir thought something had happened. The overman is Thomas Taylor. He came to the place where he and Nutty were. Weir got to the same place, near the stair bottom, and again lost his light. Both lamps were Davy lamps. Davy lamps and safety-lamps are the same. After he lost the second light, he turned round to come back, and then saw Nutty pick up their Davy lamps. He knew the lamps belonged to his three deceased brothers. They were all out. Two of them were hanging, one on the air-boxes, and another on the right hand side, on a prop; and the last was standing on the ground, as if it had been put down. There had been "a fall," and the lamps were found out, inside of the fall. The fall had been from the roof. The fall took place on the Saturday morning before, when he was in the pit. He heard the fall. It would be about four o'clock when the fall took place. Nutty and he then went over the fall. When they got over the fall, they sat down until Taylor, the overman, came. He was about four or five minutes in coming, and Weir told him that a bad job had happened. He asked him if he knew they (meaning the deceased) were in the drift, and he said "Yes, we have found their lamps and their clothes." Taylor, who had his lamp burning, then proceeded forward to see if he could find the bodies, and returned to him in a minute or two. He sent for more men. They came as soon as they could. When they came, they started to get the falls out of the road, and to get the boxes repaired. There were three boxes broken by the fall on Saturday about four in the morning. Those boxes were the necessary conductors of the air into the driftway, and without them no air could get there. They were the only means of ventilating the driftway. They were afraid of gas accumulating after the boxes were broken. They sent out for a deputy, and Peter Edgar came. He examined the boxes, and told them to take care of themselves. Weir filled a tub of water, and then came away. Both of his other brothers, William and Alexander, knew about the fall, as they heard them talking about it at the paytime, between then and four o'clock. When a box is broken, a new one is generally made at the top and sent down. They cannot renew the boxes until the fall is removed. After the fall is removed they very soon renew the boxes. Another shift would have removed the fall. If another shift had gone on when the other came off, the fall would have soon been removed. There was not another shift put on. It remained as it was until he saw it on Monday morning.—By Mr. DUNN: It is the deputy's duty to keep the air-boxes right. There are three deputy men at the pit. Hugh Emmerson is one of the deputy men, Martin Chaloner is another, and Peter Edgar is the other. It was Mr. Taylor's business to visit the drift; he saw the drift nearly every day in the week. Weir did not know that he ever missed. The drift was making gas in the "trouble," through the coal, which they had found. The boxes were 12 in. square, and were made of wood about 1 inch thick, or better. The ventilation was carried on by a fan, worked by men. There were two men on the shift working the fan, but it was only worked by one at a time. When there were three men on the shift, they sometimes worked together, and sometimes only one. The two men who were working on Sunday night complained on Monday morning. One of the men complained, and said that the fanning for one at a time was too hard work. There were more men sent to assist after the accident took place. In Weir's own judgment the men were not sufficient to work the fan. There were more men put on at the time the accident took place, and there are more on now. There were four on yesterday at the first shift. The boxes are 12 in. square, and the length is from 260 to 270 yards. The boxes increase in length as the drift advances. The boxes all the way in are supported and protected by props. Falls occur frequently in this drift, but there never has been any so heavy as the last one. Falls are usual in drifts when the ground is the same as in the pit. The ventilation by fanning is not, in his opinion, satisfactory. Weir has been a miner nearly thirty years. Two drifts, or a brick air-pipe, would be satisfactory. The ventilation to be obtained in the drift was not sufficient for naked lights or gunpowder blasting. He had blasted in the drift, but they gave up blasting when they got the coal. The gas came out of the coal. Mr. Balles never visited the drifts when there was no danger. There was for eleven weeks he was never in them. He had worked in the shaft since Dec. 8, and they had been at work some time before that. The roof is very irregular there, and it is a likely place for gas.

Examination in chief resumed: About 13 or 14 ft. of gas had accumulated in the drift-way, close to the fan, between Saturday morning and Sunday night. It was not so bad before Saturday morning, but there was gas in it; too much to be safe for working. There has been gas in it since the "fore end" of February. There was a smaller fan put in at that time, but it was too small, and a larger one was put in. In his opinion the fan is not sufficient to keep out the gas. Complaints have been made to Balles of that. He had complained to him himself. He recollected a conversation he had with him upon the subject. It took place seven weeks since. At that time the fan was standing. He asked Balles to pay him his money, and he would leave the pit. When he asked him for his money two of his deceased brothers, William and John, were with him, and Balles said they were to continue the work they were at, and if the fan they were going to put up was not sufficient he would find them another place. After the new fan was put up the ventilation was not sufficient. Balles did not stop the place when he found the fan insufficient; but last Friday he said to his father and him that he wished he had stopped the working three weeks ago. He had not had a conversation with him since the accident. There were four men employed at the fan yesterday. He never knew of more than three being employed since, when they wished to get the men out. They dropped the third man a week before the accident, and then only employed two at the fan. He had had a conversation with Mr. Taylor, but never complained. He had heard that Balles had suffered from the gas in the drift. The other means of ventilation he had suggested would not depend upon the boxes. The air would descend down the atmosphere. As a collier, he thought 260 yards too long for the fan pass. The fans and boxes are only intended for short distances, and to clear away sudden accumulations. When a constant state of ventilation is required they are not sufficient. He knew the second special rule of the colliery: "No workman or boy shall enter any working place until it has been examined either by the master overman, bank overman, or deputy, whose duty it is to make such examination before work is commenced, and to ascertain that the place is ventilated in accordance with the general rule No. 1, and provided with sufficient props and timbering." He did not know that any overman, deputy-overman, or bank overman, went down to examine the drift before these men went down to their death. He believed that no one examined the drift. His brothers had complained to him of the state of the pit. Two of them were there when he complained, and they made the same complaint as he did. Wm. Nevan was also there, and heard him make the complaint. He was asked by Thomas Taylor to sign a declaration to say that the pit was safe. He signed the declaration. Balles did not ask him, but he authorised Taylor to do so. Taylor said he was authorised by Balles. Taylor is the overman, and Balles is the viewer. Two of his brothers also signed the declaration. He did not read the declaration. They did not know anything about any other part of the pit than the one they were working in. James McDonald, one of the fanners, complained to him, but he did not know that he complained to the masters. The furthest box was about 6 feet from the top of the Hope pit. Gas is dangerous to life without igniting. The fan stood from Saturday, and commenced working again at two o'clock on Sunday. The fall took place about four o'clock on Saturday, and between five and six o'clock they started to remove it. They knew they could not work, and came away; but were not told not to come back until it was repaired. Taylor was then on every shift, and a very attentive man to his business. Weir suggested to Taylor that there should have been another drift. They had talked about it two or three different times. Had no talk about it with any body connected with the pit except to the gentleman now sitting at the end of the table (Mr. Dunn). Had never seen or spoken with Mr. Dunn before yesterday, when he was in the drift.—By Mr. ROBERTS: Taylor expressed an opinion that it was too far a distance to go with one drift. This was before the accident.

JOHN NUTTY, trailer, was next examined. There was no overman there, except Mr. Taylor, on Saturday forenoon. He could not say when Taylor came exactly, nor did he know that there was any coal in the drift when he came to the pit. He left off working at 1 o'clock. There were no men put on when he left. He did not know that there should have been men put on. When he left it on the Friday before there was no gas there. There has been gas ever since they got coal. He did not know when it was that they got to the coal.—By Mr. PATTON: When he left the place on Saturday, at 1 o'clock, the box had been partially cleared from the fall. After the opening was made in the box he did not feel any bad effluvia. He left the place at 1 o'clock on Saturday, and when he went to the place where the fall was, on Monday morning, the ventilation was right enough. He would not like to say what kind of state it was in beyond the fall. He was 7 yards past the fall, and the state of the air was bad there. The air was good where the men's clothes were found.

THOMAS TAYLOR examined: He was overman at No. 2 pit, Cleator Moor. He had been there a little over six months. He knew the driftway in question. It has been making ever since he was there. He knew the deceased men, but not the boy. The object in making the driftway was to make the connection between No. 2 pit and Hope pit. It has been in a very good state, as regards ventilation, since he went there till they came to the coal. Since then there has been gas, at first a great deal, and it kept increasing for a time. In order to get rid of it, and to ventilate the drift, they applied a fan, worked by two men. They found it insufficient to do so, and they then applied a larger fan. They came upon coal about three months ago. The large fan was worked by three men, and has answered very well. He did not recollect missing a day not visiting the drift since the coal was reached. When they put the large fan in the ventilation was very good. The larger fan was put in two months ago. He went over the fall on Monday morning, and went right up to the steer, and there found gas. He returned to Daniel Weir, passed him, and said that he would go back to him again. He went back in about two or three minutes, and he went right up to the steer, and examined the place with a lamp. He saw the boy's clogs. At that time Hugh Emmerson, the deputy-overman, came in behind him, and he gave him his lamp. He got hold of the boy's leg, pulled him out, and gave him to Emmerson. The boy was quite dead. He went to the right side of the pit, standing at two o'clock in the morning. He lifted the bodies down the steer, and they were taken out of the shaft, sent to bank, and were taken to Whitehaven. He was not aware that any of the friends of the deceased were at the bank when the bodies were brought up. They were taken away in a cart belonging to the company. He never heard any complaints before the second fan was put in, but they knew it was insufficient. There had been no complaints since the second fan was put in. It was impossible for anyone to live in the drift. He had no doubt that the men died from gas.—By Mr. DUNN: The pit had advanced 100 yards. The drift would be about 700 yards from pit to pit. He had never seen so long a drift ventilated by fans. He never saw a fan working in a pit until he came there. There are nearly 270 yards ventilated by fans. This drift is to form the connection between the two pits.—By Mr. ROBERTS: He did not know whether a board had been placed up since the accident. He ordered a plank to be put up to assist the ventilation. It was some two or three days after the accident. It threw the air further up. The plank might assist in clearing away the obnoxious gases. The gas has, for a time, been coming from the roof, since coal has been found. It has been put down much of late. It was necessary that the ventilation should be constant, and without cessation. He knew it had been decided in Court of Queen's Bench that the ventilation be constant, whether there are men in it or not. He did not consider that it was necessary that the fan should be going when the men are not working in the pit. If the fan had been working from Saturday at mid-day till Sunday at mid-day the gas would have been less. Fanners are always sent into the pit eight hours before the men go to work. The deputy-overman went down to examine the pit. He believed he went down just as the men went down. It was the deputy-overman's duty to go down and examine the pit before the men went down. It is no use of a deputy-overman going down after the men are killed. He did not recollect Balles falling down with the gas. He did not go about with a paper asking people to sign it, and that the pit was safe and perfectly wholesome. He had the paper in his house. He considered it necessary to have the names of the men at the bottom of it, because he considered the pit was safe. The document was in his writing, but he got the copy from Mr. Balles. He did not know who wrote the one he copied it from.—By Mr. ROBERTS: At the time you asked the men to sign the paper, had you not heard that complaints had been made as to the safety of the pit? Witness: I was not aware of the fact.—Yet you asked them to sign the paper? Yes.—Now, I will read you a bit, "We, the workmen in your collieries at Cleator Moor, having heard that Sir George Grey has received letters from some of our body, complaining that the pits are in a dangerous state.—Now, did you never know that the pit was in a dangerous state? I was not aware of it.—Nor till I read the paper now? I knew when I read the paper that complaint had been made.—Did you not say that you never heard of it before? Oh, Mr. Taylor, I will read you a little more. You did not know that complaints had been made before you read the paper? I did not.—The petition says "That the pits are in a dangerous state. We wish to inform Sir George Grey that we consider every care and attention is paid to keep us safe." That is it. Did you consider it necessary, when you knew the pit was safe, to get the men to sign that paper? Yes.—The paper also says—"And we have further to state that we seldom discern any gas, and what there is, in very small quantities." Now, had you come to the coal then? Yes.—Why, did you not state that gas was found in large quantities? For some time, and it gradually in-

creased when the fans were put up.—Then the paper says, "We have also to observe that no naked lights are allowed to be used in the mines. Every man works with a safety-lamp, which is carefully examined and locked by the overman before going into the workings. We regret exceedingly that such a rumour should have got about. We can only repeat that every care is taken for our safety." Now, do you know who drew up this precious memorial? I do not.—"We beg to remain your obedient servants." Were there not some men signed this paper who were not working in the pit? Not that I am aware of.—Do you consider the fan a good plan of ventilating a drift 270 yards in length? It will depend upon circumstances.—Now, you are a practical man, and you have the benefit of the most full evidence here to-day; I ask you then, Sir, if you consider the fan and boxes a sufficient mode of ventilating 270 yards? With care and safety it might have answered.—Will you give me an answer to my question? Would you have recourse to it yourself under similar circumstances? That would be for consideration.—As far as the safety of these poor men were concerned, would you consider a fan a sufficient ventilation for a distance of 270 yards? It might have been better.—It might have been better! Do you think that anything is too good when human life is at stake? I consider no plan too good.—Let me know whether you know of any other better plan? Yes, a double drift might have been better.—Yes, you think a double drift would have been better. Did you ever suggest it yourself? I do not know.—Will you answer my question? I was only overman, and had nothing to do with the management of the colliery.—Will you swear that you did not suggest that? I have talked about it to the men, and said it would have been better.—Did you ever talk to Mr. Bailes about it? I think not.—On your solemn oath, did you never talk to Mr. Bailes about it? I have no recollection.—Have you an imperfect recollection? No; neither perfect nor imperfect recollection. Two men could have kept the fan. I do really think too sufficient to keep it; and we did keep it on for two or three days. Two men were sufficient for eight hours. A few weeks before the accident I found a little gas in the highest rent, which was about 10 feet from the floor. I never saw the fan used until I came to this part of the country. In Northumberland and Durham this fan and box plan is not known. If the boxes are kept air-tight, this plan is sufficient to ensure safety compatible with the size of the fan.—Examination continued: He had complained of the drift by brattices, or wood, or brick partitions, because the roof was too tender. The board referred to was merely raised a little higher. The gas had been getting better a few weeks before the accident; no complaint; men hearty and cheerful, even those that are gone. No men were pressed to sign that document—quite voluntary; and he thought it was read over to the Weirs.—By Mr. DUNN: The men who could write did so, and he signed for those who could not. He did not know whether the bargain for 31. per yard was carried out or not, as he had nothing to do with making out the bills. Mr. Bailes did that, not him.—By Mr. ROBERTS: He did not recollect any man refusing to sign the paper, except Lowther, whom he told it was only for No. 3 pit. As long as they have their safety-lamps with them, he thought it perfectly safe for them to be near large quantities of gas. It might happen that the gas suddenly thrown upon them would have been counterbalanced by the air. He did not think it could have come upon them in an instant. The gas, where any has accumulated, ought to be cleared away before the men commenced work.—By Mr. PATTON: Mr. Dunn never found any fault with the pit, and he never asked him.

HUGH EMERSON, night deputy-overman: He did not know whether it was his duty or not to go down into the pit first. He went in the mornings, but did not allow those that were there to commence without examining the works. Did not know of the fall until Sunday night, when Mr. Taylor told him. He told the Weirs; but they knew. He told them not to go over the fall. They were experienced men, and supposing that he had went with them, he would not have been at the same place. This place was six feet over from the place where the men were working. Did not think it necessary to go with the Weirs, as the three, one especially, were very experienced, and all being aware of the fall on Saturday. This drift-way was subject to much gas since the coal was got. He had been a collier ten or eleven years, and a deputy about twelve months. Every time he went in he found gas in the drift-way, more or less. The most might be a foot or eighteen inches from the roof. The quantity was dangerous.—By Mr. ROBERTS: When the gas was found the fan was working, and the fan was not sufficient to drive the gas away in the slightest. Had no conversation with Taylor or Bailes, but spoke to the deputy. This was before the accident. Had conversation with Peter Edgar about the ventilation, and had there was gas.—Examination continued: He had complained of Edgar, and he said there was gas. Edgar put up a "cloud" to throw the air up. Edgar agreed with him that there was insufficient ventilation. It was not on the very stand. It is where they have put up a plank since. He had often talked to the men about the state of the ventilation. He had talked to the Weirs about it. They did not complain much. He would like to suggest that a double drift would be better. He had not seen the fan and boxes carried out in any other mines. He never was in many other pits. The more men there are to a fan the faster it will go. He did not think three men would be too many for the fan. Two strong men would do.—By Mr. PATTON: He had had a turn at the fan, but he could not easily turn it. It would be hard work for two men to keep it going. He saw the Weirs on the pit top. There were some six feet six boxes at the top of the pit, and they saw them. He had some conversation with them about the boxes. They told him the fall had taken place on Saturday morning. He gave them the order he had received before he went down, and after he was down. They said to him, "Very well," after he told them to wood the fall. They told him they would not need the boxes until they had got the wood set. He said to them that as soon as he had got the props set he would come up for the boxes.—By the CORONER: They told him that Mr. Taylor had no business there several days, nor he nor any other men. They were brought there to make a drift-way; and he thought it might be that he had no authority. Having no direction to interfere with their work, he assumed that what they stated was correct. He never made a practice of going in the drift-way; some of the managers knew this, and the deputies knew that. He never looked after them, and it was his duty at night. He could not say he did not go from the time of the fall until the time these men were killed. He could read. He did not know that he ever had a copy of the rules.—By Mr. ROBERTS: That is a very important question. Had you ever a copy of the rules given you? I don't know that I ever had.—The CORONER: How long have you been a miner? About nine or ten years.—The CORONER: And a deputy-overman only six months. Did you not get a copy of the rules when you were made a deputy-overman? No.—The CORONER then read rule 3, and asked the witness whether the rules had been observed on the night in question? It was not.—By Mr. PATTON: The rules were put up in the office, and any one could have a copy.—The CORONER: These rules are made for ignorant people for their protection, and I wish to hear them proved.—By Mr. DICKINSON: The place is considered a working place, and one of the most critical working places, so far as the evidence has been given. It has always been ruled that a working place was a place where people worked, and therefore the place comes within the compass of the Act. The Act says that a working place is where these men are engaged.—The CORONER: I think it is a question of myself think it a working place.—By Mr. PATTON: The Act reads the rule mentioned, and he said that he was not aware that there was ever damp found in drifts from solid stone.—By Mr. DICKINSON: Oh yes, there has. If you do not look upon the drift as a working place, you have the duties of these deputies and overmen undefined.—The CORONER: I do not think it necessary that this should be continued any further. I rule that this is a place of work.

PETER EDGAR, deputy, examined: The ventilation was middling for a long time, and when the fan was put up it was a little better. They wrought that fan, and then got a larger fan, after which the ventilation was a good deal better. It was at times better than others, but there was always a little portion of gas after they had worked into the coal. He had been a coal miner forty-three years. The place was in a drifting state, but not clear. It would have been better to have had two drifts.—By Mr. DUNN: Two boxes on a drift would be a good deal better, but there was time lost in putting them right. Had he been manager of the colliery he would have had two drifts from the first.—By Mr. ROBERTS: He never said that he recommended two drifts; but before he came here he never saw the collieries worked differently than by the two drifts. As a practical miner, two drifts would have been the proper mode.

MARTIN CHALLONER examined: He knew the driftway. He had had 15 years' experience. The fan and the air-boxes were quite sufficient for ventilation whilst driving through stone, but insufficient whilst going through the coal. The deceased were on the stone on Monday when they were killed. The boxes were broken then. Had they been good, there would have been sufficient ventilation for them to have worked safe enough. He did not see a good deal of gas in the drift at night. The men could have worked safely where they were working on Sunday night, and had cartoned boxes were broken.—By Mr. ROBERTS: A double drift would have been a sufficient ventilation than the fan and the boxes for the men that were working them. Had he been working them he should have preferred a double drift to a fan and boxes. Mr. Bailes knew as much as he did.

JAMES McDONALD, shiftman, was next examined: The deceased knew that gas was beyond the fall. They wanted to take two boxes from the top of the pit before they went down to replace the three which had been broken. Hugh Emerson said "You need not fetch them till morning, and take one from the inbye fall when the boxes are broken, and put it to the outside where broken." They went down without the boxes. He did not see them alive again after they left him. He had been working about mines for six or seven years.—By Mr. ROBERTS: He understood that what he was told was regular working order.—By Mr. PATTON: Two men are not sufficient to turn the fan. The last time he was at it, he said he would never touch it again. He heard the conversation between Emerson and the men who had been killed. He did not hear Emerson tell them not to go beyond the fall. He heard the men say that there was gas beyond the fall.

RICHARD DICKSON was next examined: He knew nothing about the drift; had no occasion to go there. He had been 19 years a miner. He knew a little about ventilation: it is not proper to ventilate a long distance with fan and air-boxes. Fifty yards, as a general rule, is long enough, but on emergencies this might be exceeded. For a continued course of ventilation there should be two drifts or roads. Had talked with the deceased men about the desirability of two drifts, and had cautioned them to be careful. He knew the men, and they said many a time it would have been better if there had been two drifts. He considered the single drift was a dangerous one. He believed that, with the means of ventilation used, everything was done that could be.

THOMAS BAILES, viewer, examined: Had been there about 11 months. The new drift was started before he went. Nearly 40 yards had been done. The mode of ventilation was the same as it was when he went to the pit, only the fan had been added. Believed the ventilation quite sufficient. Was in Hope Pit at half-past six on the morning of the accident, when he got a message about the accident at No. 2. He went there about seven o'clock, and went into the drift, where he found the boxes had been broken by a fall from the roof, and the ventilation intercepted beyond that point. Was told at the bottom of the pit what had happened. Was told that their going into the place beyond the fall had lost the Weirs their lives. They had gone 14 yards beyond. He did not consider the second rule had been broken.—By Mr. DUNN: The drift was nearly 40 yards in before he got to the place where the accident took place; it should be a single drift. He had seen a stone drift driven upwards of 300 yards. He was 30 years of age. He was six years viewer of a pit at Bishop Auckland, 50 fathoms deep, and from that he was removed to Cleator; that was all the experience he had had.—By Mr. DUNN: You have been very seldom down the pit, so that you know very little about the pit at all.—By Mr. ROBERTS: It was not necessary that they should keep the pit clean out under ordinary circumstances. He did not know how many a year ought to be killed by gas, but Mr. Dunn would tell them. The gas was never so strong as to make him succumb to it.—By Mr. ROBERTS: Be careful now; I have witnesses here. Bailes then admitted that one time he did find gas in the mine, and was rather affected by it.—Mr. ROBERTS: And you went quickly out?—Yes.—By Mr. ROBERTS: Would you not rather have the drift altered?—Witness: If my employers were so advised I see no objection to their ventilating the drift as they are now doing.—You hold to the fans and boxes? I do.—Has it answered the purpose? It has.—Do you know a better mode of ventilating? I don't think I do.—Will you tell the jury, and those gentlemen who are sending the report of this enquiry all over the country, that there is no better system for ventilating a drift than with the fan and box, or some modification of them? A parallel drift would be better.—Do you think sufficient caution has been exercised in this case? I do; most distinctly.—Then I trust that you will never have the misfortune of a pit with which I have anything to do. Who prepared the paper Mr. Taylor has shown to-day? I cannot say.—Who gave it to you? I received it in an envelope from Whitehaven.—From whom? I do not know.—In answer to Mr. DUNN, Bailes stated that the drift would be worked through in about a month. At the conclusion of this witness's evidence the enquiry was adjourned until the following morning.

On Wednesday, WILLIAM NODIN, coal-hagger; Mr. J. THOMPSON, surgeon to the colliery; and Mr. J. B. WILSON, F.R.C.S.E., were examined. Mr. DUNN then called JAMES DEVELIN, who swore that he was discharged six months ago for having complained of the bad state of the pit. He had been in the pit for fourteen years, and had kept record of the state of the pit. The witness was dismissed *pro tem.*, through a technical objection being made.

PATRICK FLINN was then called: Could not say exactly what day of the week or month Mr. Bailes was affected with the gas; it was about the latter end of March. The big fan was not in at that time. He would not be a better judge than Mr. Bailes. Mr. Bailes was not a better judge than himself, and he knew his feelings, because he exhibited them.—Mr. PATTON: Timely precaution prevented him from falling? I put my arm round him, and hindered him from falling.

JAMES DEVELIN recalled: The book produced was his. On Aug. 29, 1862, he reported to Bailes that the air was insufficient in the low bottom.—By Mr. DUNN: Was overman nearly two years, and was turned off eventually. He gave notice of his intention to leave, but stayed some time longer, in consequence of Mr. Bailes wishing him to do so. After he had agreed to stop, he was turned off. This was about seven or eight weeks ago. He would read the cause he assigned for his notice to leave.—*Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1862.*—Mr. Bailes down the pit. He is in such a terrible way that I really think he is not right in his head. I told him more shiftmen were required to do the work. Drew his attention to the state of the roof, and he got in such a terrible passion that I was forced to give in my notice to leave within fourteen days.

OWEN REYNOLDS examined: He was asked to sign the paper, but he did not sign it.—Mr. PATTON: They were not asked to sign the paper in the pit.—Mr. ROBERTS: I have got enough evidence on the paper. Mr. Bailes does not know from where it came.—Witness: Mr. Bailes said it came from Sir George Grey.

JOHN LATCHFORD said he had complained to Mr. Taylor and Mr. Bailes of the ventilation of the pit. He complained to Mr. Bailes about a fortnight ago, but he did nothing but laugh. He told Bailes that it was unsafe, and he said he could get plenty of men if he left. He complained to Mr. Taylor, and he told him to speak to Mr. Bailes. He never could get any satisfaction from him. When he spoke to him he generally said he was going away. On Monday Latchford was down, and they were making alterations, because, he thought, they were expecting Mr. Dunn. They always made alterations when he was coming, so that it might be fit for him to see them. He fixed trappets at the doors when Mr. Dunn was in, but took them away when he was gone. Since Saturday they have hung a door and put up a cloth. That was put there for better ventilation. He recollected Mr. Dunn coming two or three months ago. He was not told to be out of the way.

Mr. MATTHIAS DUNN, the Government Inspector for the district, was next examined: It was his duty to see the pits properly ventilated. There is a great mistake about the power of Government Inspectors. If he found a pit not sufficiently ventilated it was his duty to ask them to make a better one, but if they did not do so it was his duty to report to Government. If it was important enough. He had no power to enforce the suggestions being carried out. He had the power to bring the matter before the magistrates. He had no power to stop a pit, nor did he think that Government would stop a pit. He saw the pit on Jan. 22, and saw the owners and Mr. Bailes. He complained of the state of the pit on that occasion, and had an interview with the directors. There was not an instant passing through the workings of the pit. To go through the whole of the workings of the pits in the kingdom would take two inspectors for every pit. It would take more men than Parliament chooses to allow. He merely directed his attention to where he was told it was dangerous. On this occasion his attention was directed to No. 2 pit. He had received a letter from somebody. In this particular part of the pit there ought to have been a double drift, and for this reason. The drift passes through a wet road. There are several drains, therefore they ought to have good ventilation. These boxes and fans may be sufficient for casual purposes, but quite insufficient for a work like this. It was necessary for him to read what took place between himself and the directors, and the letters raised by the directors, between the Government Inspector and the Whitehaven Hematite Iron Company were then referred to (see *Mining Journal* of February 28 and April 11), and the memorial, &c., put in, with the addition of the following letter, addressed to the managing director of the Whitehaven Hematite Iron Company, which we have not previously published:—

"Whitehall, April 1.—I am directed by Secretary Sir George Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Feb. 28, and to inform you that, after careful consideration of the complaint of the directors of the Whitehaven Hematite Iron Company, and of Mr. Dunn's observations in reply, Sir George Grey regrets that in conducting his enquiry into the ventilation of the Cleator Moor Colliery, Mr. Dunn had given just cause of complaint, and been wanting in some respects in that courtesy and consideration with which an Inspector of Mines should ever temper the discharge of his duties.

"At the same time, it appears to Sir George Grey that Mr. Dunn was justified by the state of ventilation of their colliery at the time of his inspection in taking proceedings against them. Since the failure of those proceedings, Sir George Grey has received many letters from colliers working in those mines, urging 'fresh enquiry,' and declaring that their lives were endangered by the foulness of the air and the want of effectual ventilation.

"Under these circumstances, notwithstanding the recent decision of the magistrates, Sir George Grey feels that a very serious responsibility rests upon the company, and he trusts that they will not fail to take prompt measures to remedy the defective ventilation, and the adoption of all reasonable precautions for the safety of their workmen.—H. A. BACON."

Mr. DUNN cross-examined: He made one suggestion about the section, which was promised to be carried out, but was not carried out. He also made another suggestion that the two shafts should be properly examined, and a report made to him upon the safety; but he could not make him upon the pit shaft, as he was not allowed to go to the top of the pit. He never suggested to the directors to make one. He never had any formal complaint made to him about the drift. He did not consider it his duty, as an Inspector, after he had a letter from the directors. There was nothing the matter with the drift that he was aware of at that time. His duties were defined by Act of Parliament. He did not give the directors notice in writing, as directed by Act of Parliament, after he examined the pit.—By Mr. ROBERTS: He never saw the defendants, and, therefore, could make no suggestion to them. When he was at Cleator Moor he was examining Hope pit, and not No. 2 pit.

Mr. JOSEPH DICKINSON examined: He had been deputed by the Government to assist Mr. Dunn in this enquiry. His inspection of the pit was confined to the causes of the accident—that is, principally to the driftway, and to such other places as he thought necessary. The fan was at work then. Four men were at the place, and two of them were working it. They were working as men should work. The air they produced did not clear away all the gas. There was a portion of gas left in the roof. The boxes were large enough to commence and to drive the air to a certain distance, which would depend upon the quantity of gas met with. At the time he saw the boxes the size was too small, and not, in his opinion, sufficient for ventilation. He saw it under the most advantageous circumstances in which it could be placed. The joining of the boxes appeared to have been newly plastered with mortar, and no work having been going on in the way of clearing the driftway, no fresh surfaces of coal were being cut, so as to liberate fresh supplies of gas. The fan was in addition to two ventilating furnaces, which would also tend to create a draft through the air-pipes, and would, of course, be an assistance. Both of them had failed. He measured the air coming out of the pipe at the top of the shaft, and found it to be 258 cubic feet per minute, which is only a small quantity, and quite insufficient for emergency, which ought to have been expected in such a place. He looked into the driftway which connects Whinny Pit with No. 2 pit, and saw that there was a regulator with an aperture 14 in. square in it, the rest of the air-pipe having been stopped up so as to force air to the other part of No. 2 pit, distant from the drift, the air coming through the aperture long before the supply of the drifting. He measured the air coming through the aperture, and found it to be 2398 cubic feet, that being the whole of the supply of ventilation for the drifting. Of that quantity only one-ninth, or 258 cubic feet, reached the extremity, where it was principally required. In his opinion, seeing that they had got to the coal, the boxes ought to have been increased to 3 feet square, or 9 square feet, as they now are only 4 feet square, and he thought that the boxes ought to have been taken to take the air into the upper portion of the drift, so that gas might be prevented from becoming lodged in the roof. These means are simple, consisting of brattices being placed across the lower portions of the drift, so as to throw the air over into the upper portions; or, by another way, by having brattices placed lengthways in the drift, so as to have the air go underground, and returning over the top. The accumulations of gas in the roof of the workings, of which so many of the witnesses have spoken with so much levity, and the impossibility of getting rid of which were, in his opinion, violations of the first general rules of the Act, and such ought not to be allowed any property respecting them. They were dangerous. He was the priest at the timidity with which the men regarded his making the examination of the bore in the roof with the safety-lamp. There was no danger in making the examination, he had made thousands. Gas might be in the roof, and not be discovered unless such an examination is made. The special rules order such an examination to be made every eight hours. The rules were made by the directors, according to the Act of Parliament. This rule had been violated. The ventilation ought to be sufficient to meet all common mining emergencies. He had known of cases of death from gas when there had been no ignition. He had known such cases. He did not consider that it was proper that a fan and two boxes should not have been working on Saturday at noon till Sunday at midday. The ventilation ought to have been continuous, especially as in this instance it was too small. He saw the fan working, and considered that four men were not too many to keep it working efficiently. Unless the fan was moving with a good velocity it would not sufficiently ventilate the drift. It appeared to be hard work for the men, and two men could not, in his opinion, keep up the work for eight hours with efficiency. An Inspector has the power to examine every part of a colliery, but they could not do so on account of their extent. When the ventilation is bad the alterations are to be made on the responsibility of the coalowners, and not of the Inspectors. One of the points required by the Act is for the Inspectors to see that the ventilation is sufficient.—By Mr. PATTON: The gas gradually piled away after the coal is wrought; and, therefore, he was surprised to find it in this state, as he saw the workings under as advantageous circumstances as it could have been. The ground was not to be trusted as free from gas. The next fault seen was at the place where the gas was—probably at one of the highest portions of the driftway. Coal was underneath it. At the time he was in it was free, with the exception of this lodgment. There was not sufficient ventilation as might be expected to meet emergencies. He would have considered it imprudent without more ventilation; wherever gas is lodged, and when they are past the margin of safety it is Nature's warning that ought to be at once resorted to. If the caution is disregarded the gas accumulates, and the next thing is an explosion. There was no pit in his district in the same condition, or he would have got it altered. The end of the steeple is 41 ft. from the fall. The gas did accumulate 41 ft. from the fall. It occurred to him to step out of the line, and put a question, "Why was the fall not replaced, when an hour and a-half would have done it?" According to the evidence, those people went in to their work, and were suffocated before there is proof they had a stroke of work. It was clearly shown that it was not intended to have the fall cleared away sooner. It was not indispensably necessary to wait until the fall was cleared away before some temporary means were adopted. Until the boxes were ready, it was not a good place for workmen to be in. From the timidity with which the examination was made, it does not seem that the examination was thoroughly made. Remarks were made at his using the lamp vertically, as he held the lamp full of gas, touching every portion of the gauze. It was the only efficient way of testing the gas. The gas where he held the lamp fired with the lamp held vertically, and he believed that if he had held the lamp against the roof the lamp was quite safe. But he would not recommend men there to try as an experiment this plan. Sir Humphry Davy never intended his lamp to be used instead of ventilation. In that pit he thought they had depended upon the lamp instead of ventilation. The plank was put up too late; it was "locking the door after the horse was stolen." It was quite admitted that it was common to have 4 yards of fire-damp in the place. He approved of fans and boxes to a certain extent, but when not compatible with safety, he would recommend other means.—By the CORONER: Could assure them that this colliery is in such a slovenly state that if he could stop it he would do so. If these parties were told not to go beyond the fall, he still believed that these men acted to the best of their knowledge; and had they returned with the saw it is very likely that they would never have heard anything of the matter. To allow these men to go down, generally knowing the dangerous state of the pit, the employers were fifty times more to blame than the poor fellows who went in. He could answer in no plain terms. The workmen must be kept out of their pits, and the safety must be maintained.—By Mr. ROBERTS: The mortar which he saw on the boxes appeared to have been made since the accident. The fire that he observed in the roof was where the fan and boxes were in their full vigour.

THOMAS TAYLOR recalled: He had seen a boy 14 years of age turn the fan without apparent exhaustion.

HENRY MULCASTER, colliery-viewer, of Whitehaven, was examined, but nothing of importance was elicited.

The CORONER, in summing up, said: The question for you to consider is whether neglect brought about the death of these men. In the first place, you have to consider whether the death of these men was caused by the neglect of any person, and whether these men lost their lives through the fault in the pit. You have the evidence of the medical men to prove that the men did lose their lives in that way. The evidence appears to be conclusive that the deaths of these men were caused by an accumulation of gas.—Well, now, could that accumulation of gas have been prevented by ordinary, fair, and proper means? I do not mean to say that people will manage coal pits should at all times take extraordinary means for the safety of the people working in the mines, but they are bound to take every fair and reasonable means to keep the pit safe for their workmen, so as they may not lose their lives while working. Well, now with respect to the ventilation. The enquiry has occupied a very long space of time, but the real question appears to me to be whether the ventilation was proper or not, and whether you consider it proper, and whether the death of these men has been caused by improper ventilation. A good deal has been said about fans. It appears that as to make you believe that the managers were wanting in the lives of the people employed by them, then a legal criminal responsibility rests somewhere. Before there is a criminal responsibility, however, there must be no slight negligence, but negligence of a very gross kind, such negligence that no ordinary means could have prevented an accident. The first question for you to consider will be whether any of the rules of No. 2 pit have been broken. That is a question of fact. If you believe the evidence which has been given, and I have no hesitation in saying that you will believe the evidence, then you can come to no other conclusion than that the rule No. 2 has been broken. There has been nothing said to make you believe otherwise than that the rule has been broken. Then the next question for you to consider is whether the lives of the deceased men were lost in consequence of this rule having been broken. If you are satisfied of that, and if you answer the two questions in the affirmative, then you must see whether criminal responsibility attaches to any one in consequence of the breaking of the rule. But, gentlemen, to come to the ventilation; what do you think of the ventilation? Do you consider it was what was right and proper, such as you consider and ordinary proprietors ought to have in their pits? If you answer that in the negative, then you must consider whether the deaths of these men were caused by insufficient ventilation. Now, although this enquiry has lasted two days, there can be no doubt but that it will not be lost upon the owners of coal mines, after the very strong evidence which has been given by the Government Inspector, who has been sent down here by the Home Secretary to assist Mr. Dunn, the local Inspector. He has visited the pit, made an examination, and he gave his evidence here to-day. You must not, however, give more credit to his evidence than what it is fairly entitled to. You must look upon his evidence in just the same way as you would upon the evidence of any other witness who can speak with knowledge of the matter in hand. Well, gentlemen, Mr. Dickinson, the Government Inspector in this instance, gives you his opinion, and tells you that in his judgment the ventilation is moderate, and he also says that these lodgments of gas proved to have been there, ought not to be in any well-regulated colliery. To use his own words, these lodgments of gas were "Nature's warnings," and ought to have led to the adoption of means to clear them away, otherwise some great trouble might have taken place. He said, to you that Mr. Bailes made the parties go and work while the pit was in a bad state. We have got the Inspector's evidence in a very fair way, and although he declares the pit, in his opinion, to have been in a dangerous state when the men were sent to work, still he does not implicate anybody. The Inspector has declared that he thought 2000 ft. sufficient. Now, when he went to the pit, he found 2390 ft., and on his dividing this by nine, we have 265, or thereabouts—a quantity less than sufficient by a great deal to ventilate the pit. That appears to be a very large difference between the proper and the improper state of things. If you believe that there has been criminal negligence shown whereby these unfortunate men met their deaths, then it will be your duty to bring a charge of manslaughter; and you cannot say you honestly and conscientiously believe that fair and proper and ordinary—not fanciful—means of ventilation were taken to ensure the lives of these men, and for the protection of all working under their management in this pit. If you, however, think that cautious and experienced men could have gone into this drift with safety; if you can, after hearing all the evidence, convince yourselves of that, then that charge cannot be brought. You must prove criminal negligence. Gentlemen, first you will have to decide whether or not the second rule of the pit has been infringed; next, whether the ventilation was proper or not, and, and whether the deaths of these men were caused by the infringement of the rules in question. There can, however, be no doubt as to the cause of the deaths. The medical evidence, which has never been attempted to be disproved, has gone to make that decisive.

After four hours' deliberation, the foreman of the jurors announced that they had found a verdict of "Accidental Death," but would recommend the coal proprietors to keep a more efficient staff of overmen to carry out the colliery rules properly."

Meetings of Mining Companies.

NORTH NANT-Y-MWYN MINING COMPANY (LIMITED).

The annual general meeting of shareholders was held at the company's offices, Crown-court, Threadneedle-street, on June 5.

Mr. GEORGE SEARBY (the managing director) in the chair.

The report of the directors stated that the capital subscribed was 2500*l.*, half of which (1250*l.*) went for the purchase of the mine alone. The pressing liabilities of the mine, and the cost of the present management, had been met by the directors, and the shareholders in responding to the calls (an amount of 64*l.* 10*s.* remaining outstanding), and the large amount of 115*l.* 10*s.* having actually been forfeited, these two items alone nearly absorbing the value of one of the calls; all these circumstances have combined to cripple the resources at the command of the directors, and as a necessary consequence have greatly limited their sphere of operations, but notwithstanding these adverse circumstances much has been done by way of developing the mine; and the continuous indications that present themselves of the existence of good deposits of ore, have encouraged the directors to pursue the course of development the mine has been undergoing, in the hopes of eventually alighting upon a rich and lasting deposit. The position of the mine to Lysburne and Nant-y-mwyn is highly favourable, situated as it is on the south of the former and north of the latter. The following statement, copied from the "Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom" for 1861, will give some idea of the wealth abounding in the district:—

	Lead ore.	Silver.
*Lysburne Mines	Tons 2833 3Tons 210 17
Nant-y-mwyn	805 0580 0
[* The average price of bar silver quoted was 5 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i> per ounce, and the prices of pig-lead gave the average at 22 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> per ton.]		

The following resume of the operations that have been carried on upon the mine will clearly show to the shareholders that much energy has been brought to bear. There are several lod and cross-courses traversing the sett, and the main lode runs nearly parallel with the operations on the top of the hill, at about 8 fms. from the old shaft; a shaft has been sunk about 16 fms., from the bottom of which several tons of ore have been raised, and are now lying on the surface; it is from this spot that the specimens now lying at the office for inspection were taken. It will be necessary to sink at least 10 fms. further to prove the extent of the deposit, and then to drive east and west on the course of the lode. In the wood down in the valley there are three old levels driven westward by the old workings on the course of the main lode. The bottom level is about 150 fms. long, upon which we have been carrying on our operations with varied success; on the sides of this level we have broken away several good bunches of ore. Further north there are two other levels driven on the course of other lodes; the northernmost one, which is nearly at the northern boundary of the sett, is the only one cleared at present; the lode is intersected at about 11 fms. from the adit's mouth, and driven upon westward 7 fms., and eastward about 4 fms.; the lode is about 2 ft. wide, with some spots of lead ore, intermixed with gossan and blende. The directors, in conclusion, have to state that after much delay the lease has been executed, which gives title on the property upon very favourable terms. There remain now only 2*s.* per share of final amount of capital to be called in, which will place the mine in a position to be able to carry out the operations that have to be made, it will be seen that this can be regarded available for the greater development of the mine. In the meantime it remains with the shareholders by promptly responding to the calls, that the directors will be enabled to hold out any hopes of a satisfactory result.

The CHAIRMAN, having moved the adoption of the report and accounts, urged the desirability of the shareholders—of which he was the largest—adopting some plan whereby an adequate amount of capital could be obtained to develop the property in a more vigorous manner, which, there could be no doubt, was the sole desideratum to bring about the most satisfactory results. It might, perhaps, be as well to mention that the whole of the directors stood precisely in the same position as their fellow-shareholders, having had nothing whatever to do with the formation of the company. He was desirous that each shareholder should know the exact position of their shares, with that view he would mention that the capital at the command of the directors was 500*l.*, out of which amount 200*l.* would have to be absorbed in liquidation of the liabilities.

A SHAREHOLDER enquired if the cost of the purchase of the lease of the mine was included in the item of 1700*l.*?—The CHAIRMAN replied that 1700*l.* was the original cost of the whole concern. All the shares were taken by the vendor at 5*s.* paid. Whether he did a legal or illegal thing he (the Chairman) could not say, but the vendor claimed that at that amount, and had sold them.

Mr. F. LANE enquired if the lease had been completed?—The CHAIRMAN replied that it was now ready for execution, and stated that the terms for the 21 years, with 1-15th royalty. His favourable opinion of the property had lately been considerably strengthened by what had been seen in the lowest adit in the sett, which was about 100 fms. below the other points of operation. There would be about 200 fms. to drive to get under the present excavations, and it was estimated it would cost about 10*s.* per fathom to make the adit practically available.

Mr. T. C. SMITH asked the captain if he proposed sinking any farther at present?

Capt. JOSEPH WILLIAMS replied that he proposed sinking the shaft another 10 fms. The CHAIRMAN said he had already mentioned that he was by far the largest shareholder, but he was fully prepared to adopt any course which his fellow-shareholders might suggest for the raising of sufficient capital to enable the mine to be prosecuted with vigour.

Mr. T. C. SMITH thought that every shareholder, after perusing the report just read, would come to the conclusion that the present company commenced operations with a ridiculously small capital. He had been induced to take an interest in the undertaking by the several promising features which the property presented; and he was now more and more of the opinion that if a small amount of additional capital could be raised and judiciously expended upon the property it would well remunerate the proprietors, and it must not be forgotten that there were more than indications of a good lode, and that it was in the limestone; but it was impossible to develop it with the scant means at present at the command of the directors. It appeared to him that the only alternative would be for the shareholders present to recommend the directors to convene a special general meeting for that purpose. As regards that portion of the company's capital which had been expended by the present directors, all he could say was that every care

had been taken that it should be economically expended; and that, he thought, was evidenced by the amount of work done at the mine.

The CHAIRMAN said that none of the directors had taken any remuneration for their services, although their duties had been of an arduous and unthankful character.

Mr. SMITH stated it had been suggested that an equal number of shares to those already issued should be created, and issued at the same price, which would give an increased capital of £5000.

Capt. WILLIAMS believed that would be sufficient to develop the mine, and bring it into a productive state.

Mr. F. LANE enquired the estimated cost of sinking the shaft 10 fms. Capt. WILLIAMS replied that it would cost about 10l. per fathom.

Mr. F. LANE thought it would be better to call up the remaining capital, before any step was taken with respect to the raising of additional capital.

The CHAIRMAN said the directors proposed doing so; and if any good result were immediately realised it would, perhaps, not be necessary to raise so much capital as that suggested. Shareholders must not forget that their property was situated between the two richest mines in Wales—the Llanabon and Nant-y-Mwyn.

Capt. WILLIAMS, in answer to a question, stated that he thought the best plan would be to sink 10 fms. at once, and when the level was extended westward there would be 100 fms. of back.—The report and accounts were then received and adopted.

Mr. SMITH thought it would be better to take the sense of the meeting upon the question of an increase of capital, as it was in the power of the directors to call a special meeting.

Messrs. T. C. Smith, C. Warwick, E. Drow, G. Searby, and Capt. Maude were elected directors for the ensuing year.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply to a question, stated that those shareholders who had not paid their calls were out of the concern, and that there was a set of good shareholders.

Mr. DREW felt satisfied that the whole of the shareholders felt that their worthy Chairman was deserving of the company's thanks for the careful manner in which he had conducted its affairs.

The CHAIRMAN was obliged to Mr. Drew for the compliment, but the fact was he (the Chairman) was so largely interested in the undertaking that he was really working for himself, which was one reason why he exercised that care.

A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman and directors.

The CHAIRMAN acknowledged the vote. He could assure the proprietors that no effort would be spared to bring the mine as quickly as possible into a successful position, of which he had no doubt, if the necessary capital were provided.

The proceedings then terminated.

GREAT NORTH TOLGUS MINING COMPANY.

The adjourned special general meeting of shareholders was held at the offices of the company, Gresham House, Old Broad-street, on June 5,

Mr. JOSEPH JANION in the chair.

Mr. T. SPARGO (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said the object of adjourning the meeting until the present time was for the purpose of obtaining legal opinion as to the right of transferring certain shares. That opinion had been obtained, according to which there seemed to be no doubt that the right of transfer did exist. He apprehended some interested parties might dispute the right; but that was a matter with which the company had nothing to do, and, therefore, it must be left to those parties to settle among themselves.

As the directors had become satisfied that a legal transfer could be made, the next thing was to recover the calls due upon them, which amounted to something like 1000l. That would be sufficient to liquidate the whole of the company's debts, and leave funds in hand to continue the prosecution of the mine; and, if the meeting were agreeable to make another call of (say) 2s. per share, the workings of the mine could be continued till about the end of the year, by which time Capt. Cornwall Henwood would tell them whether or not some considerable quantity of ore would be realised. It was to be remembered that there was now but a little distance to sink before that point was reached which had been the main object of the former, as well as of the present, company; therefore, there could not be a divided opinion that there were great prospects of success, and that those prospects would soon be realised. But, before proceeding further with the business of the meeting, it would, perhaps, be better if the secretary submitted to the meeting the opinion of Mr. T. Tapping, to which reference had already been made.

The CHAIRMAN thought it would be better for the present meeting to ratify the modification of the contract. The company, *per se*, had nothing whatever to complain about in connection with that arrangement; but still it was quite as well to be fortified by a good legal opinion.

Mr. TRISTLETON said it seemed to him that the opinion which had been obtained fully coincided with what was stated at the last meeting.

Mr. SPENCER thought, to be on the safe side, and quite legal, it would be better to read the minutes of the directors' meeting, at which the modification of the contract was adopted.

Mr. SNELL said, as the proprietor of the mine for the time being, he did consent to accept 15,000 shares, half (10s. per share) paid-up, instead of 7500 (11l.) fully paid-up.

Mr. SPENCER was still of opinion that it would be better to read the minutes referring to the modification of the contract, and have them confirmed by the present meeting, by which no difficulty could arise hereafter.

Upon the proposition of Capt. CORNWALL HENWOOD, seconded by Mr. SPENCER, it was unanimously resolved that the minutes of Oct. 27 be passed and adopted.

It was also resolved that the directors be requested to forfeit the 7000 shares in the name of Mr. SNELL, and that the same be offered *pro rata* to the existing shareholders at 2s. per share, being the amount of calls due upon them.

The CHAIRMAN said the resolution just passed stated that these shares should be offered to the existing shareholders, but he thought some time should be stated as to their acceptance or otherwise.

Mr. SPENCER suggested that to the resolution just passed the following words should be added:—"And that no shareholder should be allowed to accept the offer after the expiration of ten days."—Agreed to.

The SECRETARY said there was a difference between the company and himself; but he was quite willing to accept forfeited shares equal to that amount. (Hear, hear.)

A PROPRIETOR thought that the unallotted shares should be offered to the public. He understood that there were something like 10,569 unallotted shares.

The SECRETARY stated that there were 10,569 unallotted shares.

It was then proposed that the 10,569 unallotted shares should be offered to the public at 12s. per share—6s. on allotment, and 6s. at the end of three months; and that an abridged prospectus be advertised in the *Mining Journal* and *Times*.

Mr. STICKLAND having seconded the proposition, it was put and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said it was absolutely necessary that some steps should be taken to provide money at the mine.

The SECRETARY said that, sooner than the credit of the company should suffer, or that the miners should be put to any inconvenience, he would send down 50l., if the directors drew a cheque for that amount.

The CHAIRMAN felt that the means should be furnished. If the company were determined to continue the prosecution of the mine, the small outstanding debts must be paid. Mr. Spargo had kindly offered to send down 50l., if the directors signed a cheque for that amount. Although it might not, perhaps, be in accordance with the usual custom, yet, taking all circumstances into consideration, he, as a director, was quite willing to sign a cheque for the amount required.

A resolution was then passed to the effect that a cheque for 50l. be drawn, which Mr. Spargo undertook to do.

Mr. STICKLAND said it appeared that several of the present directors lived in Liverpool. It seemed that what was wanted were some gentlemen residing in or near London, who could assist in carrying out the objects of the undertaking.

Mr. SPENCER suggested that the board should be strengthened by the addition of one or two more directors.

The CHAIRMAN could have no possible objection to that suggestion being adopted; but as the whole of the directors resign, according to the Articles of Association, in three months from the present, he thought that would be the time to discuss the question suggested by the last speaker.

A unanimous vote of thanks to the Chairman having been passed,

The CHAIRMAN acknowledged the compliment in appropriate terms, and stated that it was his desire to promote to the utmost the best interests of the company, and for the obvious reason that he was interested in its success; therefore, in any office he performed for the advancement of the wealth of the shareholders he was not unmindful of his own individual interest. There was no question in his mind that, if the present difficulties could be tidied over, the Great North Tolgus would yet yield a very handsome return to its proprietors. The fact was, this mine had not had its intrinsic merits developed; indeed, the points—and most important—were the West Seton Mines; and the former company was formed, and had expended its capital, and towards which the efforts of the present company were directed, were yet unutilised. The time, however, was not far distant when he hoped it would be his pleasing duty to congratulate his fellow-shareholders upon the achievement of a great and substantial success.

The proceedings then terminated.

The following are extracts from the reports of disinterested practical authorities:—

June 5, 1862.—The situation of this property is all that can be desired, and would, I think, by anyone at first glance be pronounced a first-rate property. On the south, and traversed by the same cross-courses, are the South Tolgus, Great South Tolgus, Wheel Buller, Wheel Bassett, South Wheel Bassett, West Bassett, South Frances, and other rich mines in this celebrated district; on the west is Seton and West Seton Mines; south-east is the Treleghy Consols with North Downs (immediately adjoining), the lodes of which mines are the same as those of the Great North Tolgus, with the same character of the lode in every description; having the Carn Brea Hill on the south and St. Agnes Hill on the north (both granitic). It will, therefore, be seen that, in addition to a good productive locality, the lodes are embedded in a beautiful channel of blue killas, or clay-slate, in such as the productive mines of the district are found. The set contains seven east and west lodes, two elvan courses, and two cross-courses, the east and west, and the Wheel Parent and Mary; the former underlies north, the latter south; the Wheel Parent underlies south, and will form a junction with the present lode at about 70 fms. below the surface. The large elvan course runs nearly parallel with the lode, and will, by underlying north, form a junction with the latter-named lode about the 70. These junctions should be regarded as important points, as no doubt they will be the most productive. I have said the lodes of the Setons are the same as those of Great North Tolgus; these are the Parent and Mary, at present yielding so much ore in North Downs, only a short distance to the east (the ore dipping west). From the nature of the ground, also the character of the lodes and their produce, which is in every way alike, and, taking the Setons on the west, and the rich lodes as a guide for Great North Tolgus, there cannot be but one opinion that, with a little perseverance, the latter-named mine will at a very distant period be on an equal footing with the former. In conclusion, I beg to say, after carefully studying and taking all things into consideration connected with this mine, and the locality of adjoining mines, I fearlessly assert that, with a little patience, economy, and vigour, the Great North Tolgus will become a very valuable property.—J. HOPKINS.

June 8, 1860.—Agreeably to your request, I have carefully inspected your most valuable property, and beg to hand you the particulars of the same. I descended from surface through a footway, at a depth of 24 fms., which is the present adit. From thence I passed through a cross-cut north 6 fms., which brought me to Wheel Mary's main lode. From the appearance of this lode in the back, and more especially in the bottom, of the level, there must certainly have been a great quantity of ore removed. In going east from cross-cut the lode varied from 1 1/2 to 2 ft. wide, and must certainly have been a large course of rich copper ore, as the former company let it at 7d. in 12. This level is extended within 60 fms. of the great cross-course which proved so productive throughout the whole of this important mining district. From Derrick's shaft I again passed through a cross-cut north 12 fms., which intersected the engine lode. It is 18 in. wide, and laid open for about 30 fms. This lode, at the present depth, is highly mineralised throughout, producing good stones of copper ore, with blende and mundle. I would remark that further north two strong and masterly lodes exist, bearing the same promising appearance as that which I have laid before you, and, as the underlie of the three north lodes must certainly form a junction about the 80, combined with the assistance of a beautiful elvan, and the large cross-courses not far to the west, I hesitate not in saying you have a most valuable property.—W. GILBERT.

Aug. 15, 1860.—The set is very extensive, being three-quarters of a mile upon the

course of the lodes, of which there are seven, that have been worked upon by former parties at a shallow depth, and two upon which nothing has been done, with the exception of cross-cutting pits. An adit has been brought up from the eastern boundary, on the Wheel Mary lode, for 180 fathoms in length, at which place a cross-cut is driven north to the Wheel Parent lode, proving them to a depth of 24 fms. from surface. Several tons of copper ore, of good quality, have been broken and sold from the back of the adit by the present company, and a good run of ore ground is gone down in the bottom of the adit, specimens from which are to be seen on the mine. The strata are all that can be desired, and the lodes are of a masterly character, and will, no doubt, make large quantities of ore in depth. From the nature and character of the lodes, and the country in which they are embedded, together with the rich locality in which they are situated (being the richest in Cornwall), I think you are fairly justified in expecting a great, rich, and lasting mine in depth.—J. DALL.

March 13, 1861.—The set is very extensive, and is traversed by several known lodes, from which large returns have been made in the adjoining mines: there are, also, two large cross-courses about the centre of the set, and a large elvan course in the south part, about which all the adjoining mines were rich, the situation being adjacent to Wheel Parent and Wheel Mary lodes, the east, West Tolgus and the Setons to the west, and Great South Tolgus to the south, from which large dividends have been paid to the shareholders. I should recommend the engine-shaft being sunk at once, and, at the same time, sink the flat-roof shaft, and that no time be lost in exploring on both lodes, as fast as possible, the strata being congenial for mineral and highly mineralised, from which I should say the time is not far distant when large and profitable returns will be made.—J. FORT, Manager of West Bassett.

WHEEL TRELAUNY MINING COMPANY.

A general meeting of proprietors was held at the company's offices, Broad-street-buildings, on Thursday, Mr. R. HALLETT in the chair.

Mr. DUNSFORD (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the last were read and confirmed.

A statement of accounts for the three months, ending with costs for March, was submitted, from which the following is condensed:—

Sale of lead ore.....	£5368 15 1
Mine cost.....	£2306 6 2
Merchants' bills.....	1312 9 0
Royalty.....	309 6 0
Discount on ore bills.....	28 2 4
Incidental expenses.....	2 7 2= 4858 11 5
Leaving credit balance.....	£510 3 8

The balance of assets over liabilities was 935l. 19s. 1d.

The report of the agents was read, as follows:—

June 10.—Smith's, or the North Part of the Mine: The 182 south is worth 6l. per fm. The 182 north is also worth 6l. per fm. We have communicated a winze from the 172 to the 182, which has laid open some good tribute ground, and have commenced another winze about 5 fathoms in advance of the 182 south, so as to be down against that level reaches it, in order to cut open ground as fast as possible. The 172 north is now home to Chippendale's shaft, and in about one month from this time Chippendale's shaft will be opened, and the amount being so small, a continuation of the work will be a little over the last, which will complete our credits for the ensuing quarter.

You will observe that we have a good staff of workmen now, so that the mine may be developed as fast as possible, having at the same time due regard to economical working.

—FRANCIS PLYOR, RICHARD PLYOR, THOMAS GREENWELL.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. BALSTON enquired the reason of the item of 28l. for discount?—The SECRETARY explained that at the last account a month's cost was brought up, so that the financial position of the company was upon a different footing than hitherto, for they were now getting discounts from the merchants. He might, perhaps, explain there was a credit for some 30l. or 40l. worth of mundle, which might have been introduced into the present account, inasmuch as its cost of raising had been charged; but as it had not been worked, and the amount being so small, a continuation of the work was not made.

The report and accounts were received and adopted.

The CHAIRMAN said the committee had fully considered the company's financial position, and were unanimous in recommending the declaration of a dividend of 10s. per share.

Mr. BALSTON enquired if that amount of dividend had been earned?—The CHAIRMAN replied that the amount earned was somewhat in excess of that which would be absorbed by the payment of the dividend proposed.

The dividend was then formally declared.

Mr. NICHOLSON said he wished to submit a resolution with respect to future general meetings. He found there were very few shareholders in Cornwall, and, therefore, there could be no necessity for holding alternate meetings on the mine, the more especially as they were attended with trouble and expense. It might, perhaps, be desirable to leave it to the discretion of the committee to convene a meeting on the mine (say) once in twelve months; but he thought that the resolution at present on the books to the effect that alternate meetings were to be held on the mine should be rescinded.

Mr. PAGE could see no objection to the adoption of such a course.

It was unanimously resolved that the resolution passed on July 29, 1861, relative to the holding of alternate general meetings in the county, be rescinded, and that it be left to the discretion of the committee to convene an occasional meeting on the mine.

The CHAIRMAN said that resolution would relieve the committee of a tax, because they felt themselves bound to attend those meetings, however inconvenient it might be.

The SECRETARY, in answer to a question, stated that they had secured a new lease of Mr. Cartwright's land for the term of 21 years, including the meadow, upon the original dues; and the lease of Mr. Treleghy's land was also settled.

A SHAREHOLDER asked if the committee could give any idea as to the general prospects of the mine?—The CHAIRMAN said the committee believed from the general prospects of the mine that dividends would be declared for some time to come. They hoped to still further improve the financial position of the company, which they would be able to do if the shareholders did not determine upon dividing too closely.

The SECRETARY said the agents considered the general prospects of the mine to be of a very encouraging character. He had visited the property twice since the last meeting, and he found that the bottom of the mine was looking well. They were now driving into the new ground, which they had hitherto been prohibited from doing. It would, perhaps, be remembered that the levels had reached the boundary at this point, and that there was a good lode in each end; this, therefore, was an important acquisition. Generally the mine looked well for a permanently productive property. The richest part at present was in Treleghy's, where the average of the ground was much better.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and committee was passed, when the proceedings terminated.

LOWER TALDRWS AND CLODD-FA-COED SLATE CO.

The annual ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held at the company's office, Bucklersbury, on Tuesday.

Mr. PONSORBY A. MOORE, in the chair.

Mr. P. J. KEARNEY (secretary) read the notice convening the meeting.

The report of the directors stated that they had much gratification in bringing under the notice of the shareholders the greatly improved position of their property since the last annual meeting, and the assurance of its continuance.

They found there were very few shareholders in Cornwall, and, therefore, there could be no necessity for holding alternate meetings on the mine, the more especially as they were attended with trouble and expense. It might, perhaps, be desirable to leave it to the discretion of the committee to convene a meeting on the mine (say) once in twelve months; but he thought that the resolution at present on the books to the effect that alternate meetings were to be held on the mine should be rescinded.

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A vote of thanks to the Chairman and committee was passed, when the proceedings terminated.

The CHAIRMAN said he met the proprietors upon the present occasion with much greater pleasure than when he last addressed them. Although it was true they had not yet arrived at that point which all companies desired to attain—the payment of a dividend—yet he would be able to show, and his statement would be confirmed by the engineer, it would not be long before this company reached that most important point.

Of the past so much had been said at former meetings, that he would merely revert to it now by saying that neither the engineers nor the directors had been to blame for having laid the statements before the shareholders, as the engineers gave their opinion from the quality of the slate that was found and the trials made to its extent; and the directors had given their opinion from personal inspection and from the reports that were laid before them by engineers who were perfectly qualified to give an opinion upon such matters. This he might safely say—if the shareholders had been disappointed in not having received as yet an equivalent for their capital, that the directors were doubly so, for they had not only themselves to think of, but also their friends. He hoped, however, this disappointment would soon find an end. The present position of the quarry was this—the ground had been fairly opened which it would be profitable for the company to work; they knew there was a sufficiency of good slate to pay for working away, and making a large and excellent quarry. They knew this to be a fact by the trials made, and, as the quarry continued to be opened, and there was power of machinery sufficient for making enough slates to pay interest upon the money expended in opening the property; and it was to be remembered that the yield of slates would increase as the room for working was extended. During the past month they had been uncovering and opening as fast as their means would allow; and, while they had thus been enlarging the quarry, they had been able to make some thousands of slates of excellent quality from the blocks removed. During the last six weeks between 8000 and 9000 slates had been made in this way—he meant from the blocks removed for the opening out of the quarry. Some of those were of large size; it was to be noted that the largest slate, but most certainly as large as could be made from these blocks. It had been suggested by different shareholders that the quarry should be worked faster; but these suggestions were not accompanied by the means to do that which was recommended. The

directors had been compelled to regulate the operations by the means at their disposal; but still the point had now been arrived at when the directors were able to say most indubitably that there was slate which could be worked upon remuneratively. Although it could not be denied that some portion of the capital had been expended in unproductive work, still most of it would prove of permanent benefit, and would have to be done at some time or other. During the past year there had been expended about 2500l. per month; but a considerable proportion of that amount had been absorbed by general expenses. For instance, the steam-engine was kept constantly at work night and day, and there was also the expense of the staff. As to the general expenses, they would not be appreciably increased if the monthly expenditure at the quarry was as much as 5000l. He now came to the point referred to in the notice convening the meeting—the consideration of the future. The directors had asked for authority to borrow money on the mortgage of the quarry, or by the issue of debenture bonds to any amount not exceeding 5000l., for the purpose of more extensively opening out the quarry. From calculations that had been made, it appeared that even during the opening of the quarry a sufficient number of slates would be made to pay an interest on the money expended, and that in the course of nine or ten months sufficient ground might be opened to place it in a profitable condition. He might, perhaps, mention that the balance-sheet, which was made up to April 30, showed an amount unexpended of about 2000l., which, with the 5000l. the directors asked authority to borrow, would give ample funds for all the requirements. A suggestion had been made that, for the purpose of raising this additional capital, preference shares should be created. That question had been carefully considered by the directors, and it was their opinion that it would be more prudent to raise the sum by the issue of debentures, or by mortgaging the property. Moreover, they had reason to believe there would be no difficulty in thus raising the amount required. He wished to say a word about the forfeited shares; it had been with great reluctance the directors had forfeited any shares, but there was a certain pressure from without which obliged them to do so, in justice to those shareholders who had paid up their calls regularly. It had not been done in any partial or arbitrary spirit, because, where a willingness was expressed to pay the overdue calls, time had been given. In some few cases there seemed a determination not to pay any more calls, and others positively refused to do so; therefore, there was no alternative but to forfeit their shares. The amount paid upon them had been placed to the credit of the general expenses of the company. He concluded by moving the reception and adoption of the report and balance-sheet.

Mr. DENDY seconded the proposition.

Mr. BAKER said he did not think he could support the directors in their opinion as to the mortgage of the property.

The CHAIRMAN said a resolution would presently be submitted upon that question, when the board would be glad to hear the opinion of the shareholders upon it.

The motion was then put, and carried unanimously.

The retiring directors, Sir James Dombarr and Mr. S. Belsey, were re-elected; and Messrs. Cartier and Harper were re-appointed auditors.

The meeting was then made up.

Mr. DENDY said he begged to propose a resolution to the following effect:—"That the directors be authorised to raise and borrow from time to time, on mortgage, or other security on the property, any sum or sums, not exceeding in the whole the sum of 5000l., for the purposes of the company." As he had been at the quarry last year than any of the other directors, it would, perhaps, be expected that he would express an opinion as to its position and prospects. He was in Wales at the end of last month, when he took an opportunity of visiting not only the Lower Taldrws, but several of the quarries in the Festiniog district, the Croiser Mountain, and the Llanwyl Valley. He had opportunities of conversing with several well-informed men respecting the quarries in general, and the result of his investigation was that the Lower Taldrws would compare very favourably with any other quarry, the development of which was commenced at about the same time, and upon which an equal amount of capital had been expended. There seemed to be no doubt upon this point—that it was universally allowed that the Lower Taldrws possessed a good vein of slate. The question all along had been whether there was enough of it. That had now been satisfactorily proved, and, therefore, all they had now to do was to open the quarry and make money. He should be the last person in the world to advocate any further expenditure, if he did not think it would produce a remunerative return. He must confess he had no faith in a very young quarry producing dividends; he preferred to see a quarry developed like that which Mr. Wyatt had opened in the Croiser Mountain. Mr. Wyatt made up his mind to expend 30,000l. before he would sell a single slate. That had been done, and there was no doubt but that Mr. Wyatt was being handsomely rewarded for his outlay.

As regarded the resolution just proposed, he knew it was the wish of the largest shareholder and others that the necessary capital should be raised by preference shares, instead of by the mortgage of the property, and, for his own part, he would rather, if the wishes of those shareholders could be exactly carried out, that the money should be raised by preference shares. A wish had been expressed that the unallotted shares should be issued with a preferential interest, and that they should be offered to the shareholders *pro rata*. Such was his confidence in the undertaking that he would willingly take his proportion at whatever interest might be agreed upon; and the largest shareholder had also expressed the same opinion. But then the idea was that each shareholder should take his proportion, which they now knew would not be the case; therefore, after considering the question, he had come to the conclusion that it would be better, at any rate, to give power to the directors to raise money on mortgage, and, if they were thought proper, that preference shares should also be issued.

A discussion ensued, in which Messrs. Moss, Baker, Benyon, and others took part. It resulted in the unanimously passing of the following amended resolution:—"That the directors be authorised to raise and borrow, from time to time, on mortgage, or other security on the property, any sum or sums, not exceeding in the whole the sum of 5000l., for the purposes of the company, at a rate of interest not exceeding 6 per cent., or, at the discretion of the directors, by preference shares, bearing a 6 per cent. dividend, redeemable at par after five years."

A unanimous vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors terminated the proceedings.

MINING IN IRELAND—No. VI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN THE COUNTY OF CORK.]

In a parallel range with the Cappagh, Ballycummaick, and Schull Bay Mines are several islands, comprising Horse Island, Castle Island, Long Island, Goat Island, &c. These islands are from 1/4 to 1 mile south of the main land, and are along the line of the synclinal curve, which is traceable to Crookhaven; the underlie of the rocks forming the islands being north, while the rocks skirting the shore of the main land underlie south.

Extensive old works are seen in the eastern end of Horse Island, and locally known as the "Danes' Works." The West Cork Mining Company, however, about 40 years ago, cleared up the old Danes' Works, and sunk some 30 or 40 fms. on the course of the lode, which produced considerable quantities of rich copper ore; and after the mine was abandoned a cargo of good ore was shipped from the old burrows. Two or three lodes run through this island, and it is considered by those well acquainted with the district to be a valuable property. The lode in the western end of the island is to the west of Horse Island, in which there are also mineral indications. A few years since a shaft was sunk on one of the veins in this island by the Mining Company of Ireland, but the veins being found in a thinly laminated vertical slate rock, the prospects did not seem to warrant a further trial.

Long Island is a west of Castle Island, and in a line with it. Over twenty years ago trials were made at the north and south sides of Long Island by Capt. Wm. Thomas, but the veins being small and twisted in the thinly laminated slate rock, he saw no prospect of doing any good, and advised that no further outlay should be incurred. Trials, however, in the same spot were recently resumed, and carried on for several months, at a cost of about 1000l. The operations are again abandoned. If the gentlemen, previous to spending money in this spot, had asked for correct information as to its prospects, they might have obtained it, and saved their outlay. There is a report current that Long Island and Coney Island mines have been, or part of them, sold for some thousands of pounds; whether the report is true or not I cannot say, but if they have been sold for anything the purchasers must have a bargain—and here will be another instance adduced that parties have lost money in Irish mines; but what has Irish mining to do with such transactions?

In a recent number of the *Journal* I have seen a very favourable report on Roaring Water Mine, from Capt. Wm. Paul, late of Knockmuck Mine, in which he states, what was well known before, that the lodes at Roaring Water are a continuation of the run of lodes of Ballycummaick, Cappagh, &c. He also states that they have already raised between 70 and 80 tons of rich ore at Cappagh Mine, yielding from 40 to 60 per cent. of pure copper. There is a fine lode in the bottom level at Cappagh, and also in the engine-shaft sinking under it. The cargo of ore, 77 tons, will be sold at Swansea on the 16th inst., but no person connected with Cappagh Mine ever supposed for a moment it would yield from 40 to 60 per cent. of pure copper; and Capt. Paul's imagination seems to have run away with his judgment. There are specimens of ore in Cappagh and other mines in the district which will produce 60 per cent. of copper, but cargoes are different things from specimens. It is the opinion of the most competent judges in the district that there is every prospect of a good mine in Roaring Water between the eastern and western cross-courses, and that the right place for a permanent shaft would be near the orchard in the valley (and not on the top of the hill) on Grady's lode, which in the open cut has a most promising appearance, and is producing good stones of ore, gossan, spar, &c. A shaft on this spot would be likely to go down in a course of ore. The Middle, Orchard, and Thomas's lodes, reported by Captain Paul to be all yielding beautiful stones of rich ore, do not improve east of

